

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

**FISH-27-NWR**

Occupational Category:

Managerial\_\_X\_\_    Technical\_X\_\_    Analytical\_\_\_\_  
Administrative \_\_\_\_\_    Clerical/Support \_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_

Level of Responsibility: GS 9-13 Pay Band III WG/WM \_\_

Duration:    3 months \_\_\_\_\_    6 months\_\_X\_\_    Other\_\_\_\_\_

Timeframe: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter\_ \* 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter\_ \* 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter\_ \* 4<sup>th</sup> quarter\_\*  
\*As soon as possible

Title of Assignment: Environmental impact of terns on juvenile salmonids

Assignment Objective: Assist in development of an Environmental Impact Statement

Description of Tasks: In support of recovery of Endangered Species Act listed salmonids, NOAA Fisheries is closely working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the relocation of a Caspian tern nesting colony from the Columbia River estuary. This EIS will serve as a basis for future efforts to reduce juvenile salmonid mortality associated with the tern colony to aid recovery of salmonids. The Rotational Assignment Designee will work with OSB staff to provide support throughout all stages of EIS development. Specific tasks might entail: working with COE and FWS staff to develop the EIS; attending scoping meetings; and assisting with the publication / distribution of the EIS and Federal Register notices.

A draft of the EIS was developed in December 2003. The Designee will be involved in an effort pulling together various constituents, state resource agency staff, and Federal management agencies in finalizing the EIS, including responding to public comments; will become familiar with the Columbia River estuary and northwest coast ecosystems relative to fisheries and tern management issues; and will gain insights through interaction with prominent state and Federal managers.

Special Requirements and Selection Criteria:

NOAA Line/Staff Office: NMFS Northwest Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division, Portland, Oregon

Point of Contact: Mike Crouse 503-230-5404

**FISH-28-NWR  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY**

**Occupational Category:**

Managerial\_\_X\_\_    Technical\_X\_\_    Analytical\_\_\_\_  
Administrative \_\_\_\_\_    Clerical/Support \_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

**Level of Responsibility:** GS 9-13 Pay Band III WG/WM \_\_

**Duration:** 3 months \_\_\_\_\_ 6 months\_\_X\_\_    Other\_\_\_\_\_

**Timeframe:** 1<sup>st</sup> quarter\_ \* 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter\_ \* 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter\_ \* 4<sup>th</sup> quarter\_  
\*Early in 2004

**Title of Assignment:** Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation with OCRM. Development of Biological Opinion for WA State Shoreline Rule.

**Assignment Objective:** Conduct ESA section 7 consultation and complete the biological opinion.

**Description of Tasks:** As a result of WA State Dept of Ecology promulgating a revised rule for protection of state shorelines, and the expected funding of state and local jurisdictions by NOAA's Office of Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), there is a need to initiate ESA section 7 consultation with NOAA Fisheries on ESA-listed salmonid and designated critical habitat.

A contractor has already prepared a Draft Biological Assessment at the direction of NOAA Fisheries. The consultation is expected to be technically complex because of statewide scale, 12 ESUs, complex statewide regulations and a range of direct and indirect effects to listed salmonids. The consultation is also likely to be closely watched by external parties.

The participant will work with a team of staff from the WA State Habitat Conservation Office in Lacey, WA, NOAA General Counsel, OCRM, and probably U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct the section 7 consultation and prepare the biological opinion.

**Special Requirements and Selection Criteria:**

**NOAA Line/Staff Office:** NMFS Northwest Regional Office  
Habitat Conservation Division  
Lacey, Washington

**Point of Contact:** Mike Crouse 503-230-5404

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

**FISH-29-NWR**

Occupational Category:

Managerial\_\_X\_\_    Technical\_X\_\_    Analytical\_\_\_\_  
Administrative \_\_\_\_\_    Clerical/Support \_\_\_\_\_    Other\_\_\_\_

Level of Responsibility: GS 11-14 Pay Band III/IV WG/WM \_\_

Duration:    3 months \_\_\_\_\_    6 months\_\_X\_\_    Other\_\_\_\_\_

Timeframe: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter\_ \* 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter\_ \* 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter\_ \* 4<sup>th</sup> quarter\_  
\*Anytime during rotational assignment period

Title of Assignment: Endangered Species Act, Special Policy Assignments

Assignment Objective: Assist in developing ESA guidelines and policies for habitat conservation.

Description of Tasks: The Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) is responsible for implementation of the Endangered Species Act (section 7, 10, and 4(d)) for salmon and steelhead, and their critical habitat throughout portions of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The rotational assignment would include carrying out high priority ESA habitat assignments such as: (1) development of a section 7 consultation strategy with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on their flood insurance program; (2) finalizing a draft instream flow ESA guidance document; (3) updating HCD's Habitat Approach guidance document on how to conduct jeopardy / adverse modification analyses; (4) guiding an interagency Federal lands team in the development of programmatic section 7 consultation documents; and (5) providing assistance and QAQC for various ESA products developed by field office staff.

The expected outcomes would be: (1) development of an ESA consultation strategy with FEMA; (2) finalizing the draft instream flow protocol; (3) updating / revising the Habitat Approach guidance document; (4) and providing general technical and policy support to the Assistant Regional Administrator for the Habitat Conservation Division. Carrying out these assignments with assistance from other staff will provide the participant with an in-depth understanding of the ESA and how it is applied to conserve salmon, steelhead, and critical habitat.

Special Requirements and Selection Criteria:

NOAA Line / Staff Office: NMFS Northwest Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division, Portland, Oregon

Point of Contact: Mike Crouse 503-230-5404

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY  
**FISH-30-NWR**

Occupational Category:

Managerial ☒ Technical ☒ Analytical \_\_\_\_\_  
Administrative \_\_\_\_\_ Clerical/Support \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Level of Responsibility: GS 9-12 Pay Band \_\_\_\_\_ WG/WM \_\_\_\_\_  
Duration: 3 months \_\_\_\_\_ 6 months ☒ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Timeframe: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter\_ \* 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter\_ \* 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter\_ \* 4<sup>th</sup> quarter\_ \*

Title of Assignment: Geographic Analysis of Critical Habitat Designation under  
Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act

Assignment Objective: Assist in generating a variety of map products and analyses that will support the agency's critical habitat designations for 20 groups of salmon and steelhead.

Description of Tasks: The Endangered Species Act requires NOAA Fisheries to designate critical habitat for threatened and endangered species based on the best available scientific information. The Act allows designating as critical habitat areas occupied at the time of listing that contain essential features that may require special management considerations as well as unoccupied areas that are essential for species conservation.

A district court recently remanded to the agency the critical habitat designations for 19 listed groups of Pacific salmon and steelhead. As part of the effort to reassess these designations, the agency is attempting to refine its approach to mapping these species' critical habitat. This approach will involve using geographic information systems (GIS) to identify critical habitat at the 1:24,000 scale based on the latest fish distribution data and a variety of other GIS layers. Success will depend on a team of GIS experts to portray these river-reach scale designations across a broad landscape that includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. Products will include maps for publication in the *Federal Register* and media sources, maps for the agency's legal administrative record, and maps/analyses to facilitate peer reviews and public hearings. The projected completion date for the first phase of this analysis is June 2004; the final phase is scheduled for completion by January 2005.

The participant will work with a team of staff from the Protected Resources Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Southwest Region, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and NOAA General Counsel to conduct the analysis. Primary direction will come from the biologists and geographers at the Portland office of the Protected Resources Division.

Special Requirements and Selection Criteria: The participant should have experience in GIS analyses and map production using ESRI's ArcGIS software. Familiarity with ArcInfo and ArcIMS would be extremely valuable as well.

NOAA Line/Staff Office: NMFS Northwest Regional Office  
Protected Resources Division  
Portland, Oregon

Point of Contact: Garth Griffin 503-231-2005

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY  
**FISH-31-NWR**

Occupational Category:

Managerial   X      Technical   X                        Analytical         
Administrative                     Clerical/Support           Other         
Level of Responsibility: GS 9-12 Pay Band        WG/WM         
Duration:    3 months           6 months   X                Other         
Timeframe: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter\_ \* 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter\_ \* 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter\_ \* 4<sup>th</sup> quarter\_  
                    \*Anytime during rotational assignment period

Title of Assignment: Pacific salmon and steelhead rulemaking under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act

Assignment Objective: Assist in the drafting and communication of rulemaking packages for salmon and steelhead listing decisions and critical habitat designations.

Description of Tasks: The Endangered Species Act requires NOAA Fisheries to make status review determinations for at-risk marine species. If a species is designated as endangered or threatened under the Act then further designation is made for that specie's "critical habitat." Both these processes are done through Federal rulemaking which includes creating the administrative record for the determination but only after developing and reviewing that record with co-managers and the interested public. NOAA uses a number of outreach techniques to discuss rulemaking with co-managers and the interested public including posting material on its web page, writing letters, organizing meetings, and conducting public hearings. Suffice to say that successful rulemaking goes hand-in-hand with a careful public outreach and communication effort.

Recently two separate district court rulings called into question the way NOAA Fisheries made its species listings and critical habitat determinations for Pacific salmon and steelhead. The remedy is for NOAA Fisheries to redo and re-propose its rulemakings. While much work has been taking place for the past two years to address deficiencies exposed by the court's findings the work remaining over the next year is equally critical. New salmon and steelhead listing decision proposals will be made in March 2004. And approximately three months later, the agency will propose new critical habitat designations. Both these rulemakings are large and complex and of great interest to co-managers and the public. Both will require smart and energetic outreach for NOAA Fisheries to be successful.